

In the Claims

1-10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) A threaded ring for threadedly engaging an externally threaded section of a spindle, comprising:

a one-piece body having first and second body components relatively movable between a preinstallation state and an installation state and having a longitudinal axis, each of said body components having an internal thread forming a threaded flank clearance in the preinstallation state, said first body component forming a set collar with a planar surface on one end thereof extending in a radial plane relative to said longitudinal axis, said second body component forming a retaining ring connected to said first body component and having a contact surface extending non-perpendicularly relative to said longitudinal axis and at an angle of inclination from a plane perpendicular to said longitudinal axis in the preinstallation state, said threaded flank clearance being eliminated in the installation state;

a gap between said body components;

an elastically flexible wall component of said body connecting said body components;

and

an actuator engaging said contact surface to adjust geometry of said gap by adjustment of said flexible wall along said longitudinal axis and by movement of said body components between said states, said actuator including a set screw having a threaded shank extending parallel to said longitudinal axis and a screw head with a head surface facing said contact surface

extending perpendicular to said longitudinal axis and at said angle of inclination to said contact surface in the preinstallation state.

12. (previously presented) A threaded ring according to claim 11 wherein said contact surface extends perpendicular to said longitudinal axis in the installation state.

13. (currently amended) A threaded ring according to claim 11 wherein said actuator comprises ~~plural tensioners~~ set screws permitting modification of widths of said gap at selected points.

14. (currently amended) A threaded ring according to claim 13 wherein said contact surface is situated between said ~~tensioners~~ set screws and said second body component.

15. (currently amended) A threaded ring according to claim 13 wherein a part of said contact surface is assigned to each of said ~~tensioners~~ set screws.

16. (currently amended) A threaded ring according to claim 13 wherein said second body component comprises recesses receiving said ~~tensioners~~ set screws.

17. (currently amended) A threaded ring according to claim 13 wherein

said ~~tensioners comprise~~ set screws are uniformly distributed over a circle coaxial to said longitudinal axis, said set screws penetrating said gap parallel to said longitudinal axis, and having screw heads supported on said contact surface in the installation state.

18. (previously presented) A threaded ring according to claim 17 wherein

said set screws are hexagonal head screws countersunk in recesses in said second body component in the installation state and having screw heads oriented at a clamping angle relative an external front face of said second body component, said clamping angle corresponding to said angle of inclination in the preinstallation state.

19. (previously presented) A threaded ring according to claim 11 wherein

said first and second body components have equal outside diameters.

20. (previously presented) A threaded ring according to claim 11 wherein

said angle of inclination is one-half to five degrees.

21. (previously presented) A threaded ring according to claim 20 wherein

said angle of inclination is one to three degrees.

22. (cancelled)

23. (previously presented) A threaded ring according to claim 22 wherein
said head surface and said contact surface are angularly oriented at an angle less than said
angle of inclination in the installation state.

24. (previously presented) A threaded ring according to claim 11 wherein
said angle of inclination is an acute angle.

25. (previously presented) A threaded ring according to claim 11 wherein
said contact surface is planar.